



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
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May 13, 2014

Andrew Raddant
Regional Environmental Officer (Trustee)
U.S. Department of the Interior
Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance
15 State Street, Suite 400
Boston, MA 02109

Re: Notification of Upcoming RI/FS
Walton and Lonsbury, Attleboro, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Raddant:

Sections 104(b)-(c), 121(f), 122(j), 126 and other sections of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA), 42 U.S.C. § 9601 et. seq., clarify and define the respective roles of EPA and the federal, state, and tribal natural resource trustees. Specifically, those sections of CERCLA require EPA to notify the appropriate trustee of potential natural resource damages emanating from a release or threatened release of hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants and to coordinate with that trustee in assessments, investigations, planning, and negotiations in reference to the release.

EPA proposed the Walton and Lonsbury site to the National Priorities List (NPL) on September 13, 2012 and published notice in the Federal Register of this proposed action. A 60-day comment period ensued during which no adverse comments were received. The NPL listing for the Walton and Lonsbury Superfund Site was finalized on May 13, 2013. A "fund lead" determination was made in February 2013 based on preliminary review and evaluation of responsible parties' ability to conduct the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS).

EPA hereby notifies DOI that it has issued a Scope of Work for the performance of a fund-lead RI/FS to our Remedial Action Contractor (RAC). EPA is providing this notice to coordinate these upcoming investigations.

A site description is enclosed, along with a figure showing the location of the Site and certain site features of interest. Please contact me at 617-918-1327 as soon as possible if DOI is interested in participating in the RI/FS.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Keefe", is written over a horizontal line.

Daniel Keefe
Remedial Project Manager

Enclosures

cc: Bob Cianciarulo, Chief, MA Superfund Section
Peter DeCambre, EPA Enforcement Counsel
Jeffery Chorman, Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
Ken Munney, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Site Description

The Walton & Lonsbury Superfund Site is a 2.72-acre former chromium electroplating facility located in Attleboro, Massachusetts. The property is currently owned by Walhard Realty Trust and until very recently consisted of a 13,500 square-foot chromium plating facility. The property has been the location of a time-critical Removal Action (from 2010 to present) which, among other accomplishments, resulted in the facility being torn down and removed.

The property is bounded by Walton Street to the north; North Avenue to the east with residential properties beyond; industrial properties to the west; and wetlands and residential properties to the south. The property and abutting properties are known to be contaminated with metals and volatile organic compounds (VOCs). Contamination extends (via groundwater migration) to several residential properties located several hundred feet to the southwest of the former facility; these have been the focus of time-critical Removal Action culminating in the placement of a cap over the highest concentrations of site-related contaminants in surface soil.

Concurrently with EPA's time critical removal action, the Region proposed that the Site be added to the National Priorities List (NPL). No adverse comments were received, and the Site was included on the Final NPL in May 2013.

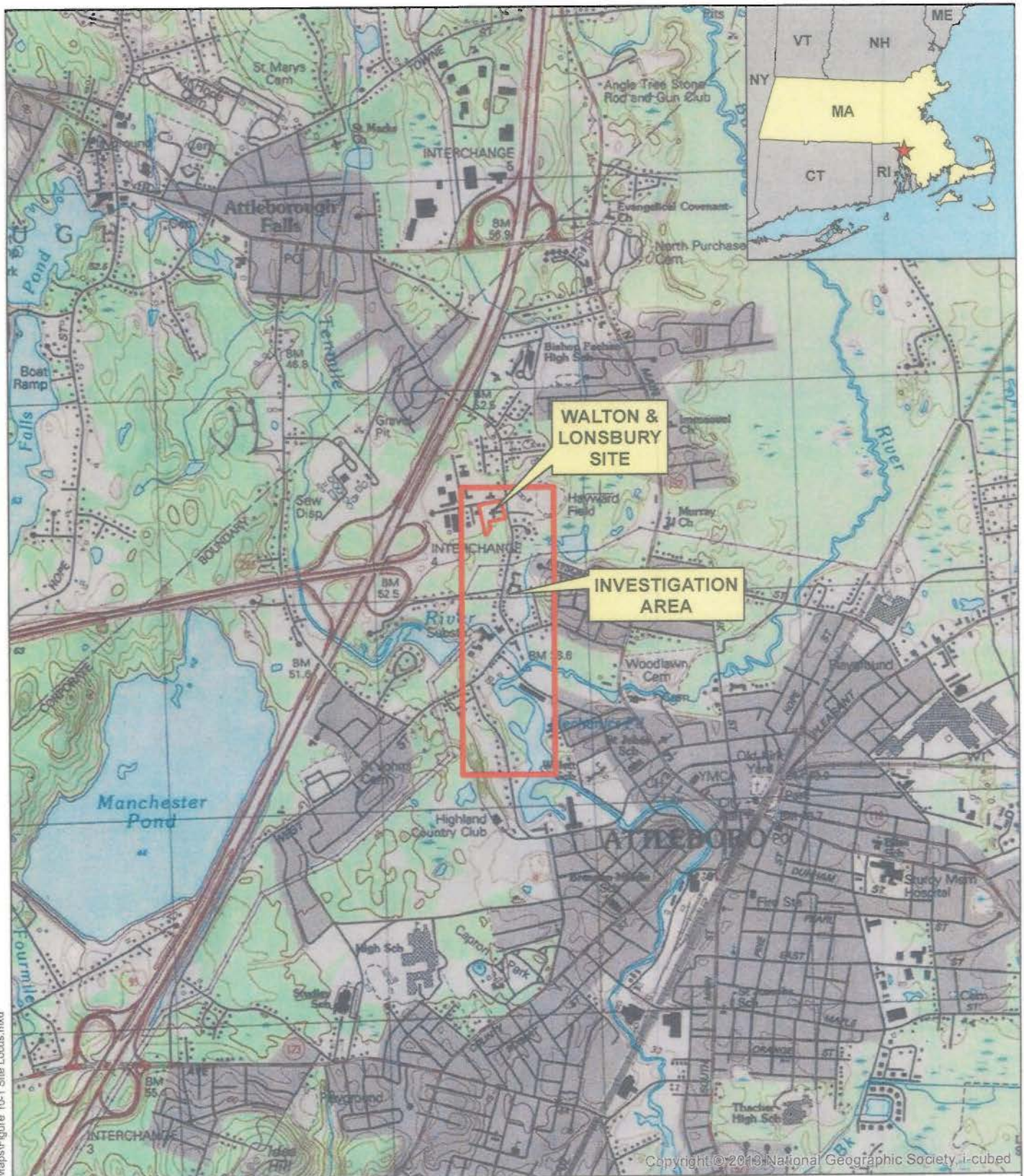
Site Background

The Walton and Lonsbury property was the location of a chromium plating facility from 1940 to 2007; however, the majority of contamination is believed to have occurred prior to 1970 as a result of the direct discharge to an abutting wetland. Chemicals used include trichloroethylene (TCE), 1,1,1-trichloroethane (TCA), chromic oxide, hydrochloric acid, sulfuric acid, phosphoric acid, cyanide, paint thinner, aluminum oxide, sodium hydroxide, sodium bisulfate, sodium hydrosulfate, and lead sulfate. Wastes generated at the Site include hydrochloric acid, chromium hydroxide sludge, chromic acid wastewater, chromic acid-contaminated solids, TCE, TCA, aluminum oxide dust, and cyanide plating bath solution. Lead is also a contaminant of concern and was used for a variety of operational processes in the chrome-plating operations.

As for the sources of contamination, there appears to be evidence of a former trench, an abandoned dry-well, and two former above-ground storage tanks (ASTs) of chlorinated solvent. Moreover, the roof over the electrical room was located immediately below the exhaust ducts from the chromium plating tanks. Over the years of operation, chromium residue accumulated on the roof. During storm events, water runoff from the roof would transport chromium to the ground surface.

Since 1970, there has been a long history between Walton and Lonsbury personnel, EPA, and the MassDEP. In summary, in 1980, MassDEP gave the Facility "Interim Status" as a treatment, storage and disposal Facility under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). Throughout much of the 1980s and 1990s numerous assessments, violations, permit modifications, and mitigation measures occurred. By 2001, MassDEP determined that VOCs had migrated off of the property in sufficient concentration to recommend that abutting residents install vapor mitigation systems.

In 2004, EPA's RCRA Corrective Action program became involved to supplement the assessment efforts of Walton and Lonsbury and the MassDEP. Based on these assessments, significant contamination of nearby Bliss Brook and the Bunguay River were documented. In 2006, the president of operations, Robert Hoag, passed away and the business faltered. In 2007, all operations ceased.



1:25,000

0 1,250 2,500
Feet

AECOM

**FORMER WALTON & LONSBURY SITE
78 NORTH AVENUE
ATTLEBORO, MA**

SITE LOCUS MAP

